

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are presented for further examination. Claims 1-5 have been amended.

In the Office Action mailed December 27, 2005, the Examiner objected to claim 5 because of an informality and rejected claims 3-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as indefinite. Applicants have amended claims 3-5 to overcome the rejections as identified by the Examiner. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,522,880 ("Verma et al.").

The invention as set forth in claims 1-7 is directed to a hard handoff method for making a mobile client continuously receive internet services by carrying out a hard handoff. As set forth in the claims, this is accomplished by shifting a traffic channel of the mobile client (MC) to the target packet data service node (PDSNt) from the current packet data service node (PDSN) after setting all links. In other words, a traffic channel between MC and PDSN is still alive until an IP registration of MC to PDSNt is established.

Verma et al. is directed to the transition of a communication stream between connections for multiple origins to an endpoint. Verma et al. disclose a method for handing off a communication stream between a mobile node (MN) and a communication endpoint from a first connection initiator and a second connection initiator. To summarize the method of Verma et al., the following takes place:

1. The first connection initiator sends a call-disconnect-notify (CDN) message to the connection endpoint when it detects loss of communication with MN.
2. The connection endpoint in response to the CDN message stores call information for the first connection initiator.
3. The first connection initiator broadcasts a user-moved message that includes the first connection initiator's call information for the first connection.
4. The second connection initiator, upon receiving the user-moved message, stores the first connection initiator's call information from the message.

5. The second connection initiator retrieves the call information and sends a tunnel-handoff-request message to the connection endpoint when it receives a second connection request from the mobile node.

6. The connection endpoint retrieves its call information for the first connection initiator and sends a tunnel-handoff-response message to the second connection initiator.

7. The second connection initiator and the connection endpoint resume the communication stream using the call information for the first connection initiator.

Thus, according to Verma et al., the handoff procedure carries out between the connection endpoint and the first/second connection initiator, and between the first connection initiator and the second connection initiator by using the CDN message and call information.

In contrast, claim 1 recites a hard handoff method for making a mobile client continuously receive internet services by carrying out a hard handoff procedure with a target radio network upon encountering a hard handoff situation in the mobile client that includes carrying out a hard handoff procedure with the target radio network upon encountering a hard handoff situation in the mobile client by carrying out a radio connection between a mobile client and a target radio network when a handoff is requested and establishing a point-to-point protocol link between the mobile client and a target packet data service node of the target radio network without closing a current traffic link. Claim 1 further recites carrying out a mobile IP registration procedure of the mobile client to the target packet data service node after the PPP link is completed, including transmitting an agent advertisement message to the mobile client and the mobile client transmitting an agent solicitation to the target packet data service node, closing the channel of the mobile client to a current packet data service node after the mobile IP registration to the target packet data service node is completed, and shifting a traffic channel of the mobile client to the target packet data service node from the current packet data service node after setting all links.

Thus, according to the present invention, a handoff procedure is carried out between the MC and the PDSNt. More particularly, the present invention does not have a step

for buffering the data, which cannot be delivered during the handoff (which corresponds to step 2 of Verma et al. above).

Furthermore, Verma et al. do not teach or suggest the feature of the present invention of carrying out a radio connection between the mobile client and a target radio network, establishing a PPP link between MC and PDSNt, carrying out a mobile IP registration procedure of MC to PDSNt after the PPP link is completed, and closing the channel of MC to PDSN after the mobile IP registration to PDSNt is completed.

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is clearly allowable over Verma et al.

Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 2-7 are also allowable for the features recited therein as well as for the reasons why claim 1 is allowable.

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims in this application are now clearly in condition for allowance. In the event the Examiner disagrees or finds minor informalities that can be resolved by telephone conference, the Examiner is urged to contact applicants' undersigned representative by telephone at (206) 622-4900 in order to expeditiously resolve prosecution of this application. Consequently, early and favorable action allowing these claims and passing this case to issuance is respectfully solicited.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Respectfully submitted,

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